

Florida Green Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Florida GCSA History 101

This issue marks the 25th anniversary of the first appearance of the publication that eventually became *The Florida Green*. A look at the history of the magazine is meaningless without at least a quick look at the history of the association that decided to create such a publication.

The formation of an organized Florida superintendents association began April 22, 1939, when a group of South Florida superintendents met at the urging of then-GCSAA President Joe Ryan who happened to be visiting his daughter in Miami. After a series of informal meetings, an official organizational meeting was held May 13, 1939 at the Hollywood Country Club and the South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association was formed.

The first officers were Jimmy Blackledge, president; Clyde Smith, vice president; and Mike Schuyler, secretary/treasurer. A committee was appointed to draft a set of bylaws and the annual dues of \$5 was agreed upon. Regular monthly meetings continued after that and consisted of a business meeting, round table discussions and then lunch and golf. By the July 1939 meeting three directors were added to the board: R.F. Lawrence, B.A. Yoder and Mark Mahannah.

In early 1940 the board discussed expanding the association to a statewide

organization. Responses to a letter sent to all the known superintendents at the time were so meager that the idea was abandoned except for some interest shown by the Tampa - St. Petersburg area superintendents, who founded the West Coast Association in 1949. The

South Florida Golf Course Superintendents also discussed merging with the Florida State Florist Association which was the leading influential horticulture group in the state at the time, and made an application to

join that umbrella group. Attendance at subsequent meetings fluctuated for the fledgling group, especially during the winter seasons. Soon the war years were upon the world and regular meetings were not scheduled, but several meetings were held each year and those members still on the area golf courses got together to discuss mutual problems.

After the war, the association grew steadily with modifications to the structure of the organization and the membership.

In 1961 a group organized as the Georgia-Florida Turfgrass Association which encompassed the North Florida area. The name changed to the Florida-Georgia Turfgrass Association and finally in 1977 to the North Florida GCSA.

In 1968 superintendents in southwest Florida could no longer tolerate the long drives on U. S. 41 to either Tampa or Miami to attend meetings, so they formed the Everglades GCSA and had a joint meeting with the South Florida GCSA in 1969. They played an informal golf

match against each other, an event that blossomed into the Poa Annua Classic.

The 1970s saw the formation of four new local chapters. In 1973-74 the Central Florida GCSA formed in Orlando. The Suncoast GCSA formed in 1976 and the Tri-

County GCSA split from the South Florida GCSA as the region's golf courses numbered close to 300. After some discussions over logical boundaries, it was decided that the South Florida GCSA would reside in Monroe, Dade and Broward counties. By May of '79 the Tri-County changed its name to the Palm Beach GCSA, and the Treasure Coast Chapter formed in July 1980.

During 1978-80 a statewide effort was made to bring all the local associations together as chapters of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. In October 1979 the first board of the FGCSA was elected. In the late '80's and early 90's, the Ridge, Seven Rivers and Coastal Plains chapters have been formed for a total of eleven chapters.

Several FGCSA at-large members belong to the Gulf Coast GCSA which is affiliated with the GCSAA. While not currently an official chapter of the FGCSA, this chapter serves superintendents in the western Panhandle, Alabama and Georgia, and supports the IFAS WFREC in Milton.

The First Publication

Back in 1973 the South Florida GCSA decided to produce a magazine for its members, and in October 1973 the first issue of *The South Florida Green* went into circulation. Here are two excerpts from that inaugural issue:

Dedication

To the men who work "behind the scene" in all areas of research, we gratefully dedicate the first issue of *The South Florida Green*.

These men devote most of their time to solving all aspects of turf problems. For their dedicated devotion in making numerous contributions (for which they receive little public credit) The South Florida Superintendents Association members say, "Thank you, gentlemen."

The First President's Message October 1973

The South Florida Green is the first publication of The South Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association. This Association was organized in July of 1939. Jimmy Blackledge was elected the first President and is still one of the 152 active members.

This newsletter will attempt to bring an exchange of ideas, of old and new methods of turf care. Members are encouraged to submit suggestions and



The first issue of the South Florida Green, published in October, 1973, had eight pages.



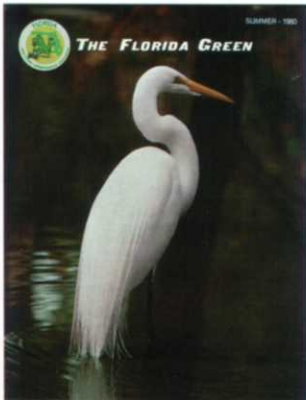
articles that will be of particular interest. Everyone is urged to participate so that we can all work together for the betterment of turf in Florida.

It is an honor for me to be President at the time of this first publication, which is the culmination of past efforts and interest of many officers and members.

Hopefully *The South Florida Green* will be a successful venture and a benefit to all

interested in the challenge of growing and maintaining fine quality turf.

Lou Oxnevad
Riviera C. C.



The Summer 1980 issue was the first to be called *The Florida Green*

Becoming *The Florida Green*

Finally with the organization of the FGCSA as a statewide association, on April 17, 1980, South Florida GCSA President Alan Weitzel made a motion to change the name of *The*

South Florida Green to the *Florida Green*. After much debate and in

the spirit of solidarity and unification, the South Florida Chapter's respected publication became the *Florida Green*, the official voice of the Florida GCSA. The Summer 1980 issue bore the new name.

Editors and Others

Mike Barger was the first editor of the *South Florida Green* and served until 1976. Dan Jones took over with the October 1976 issue and served as either the editor or publisher for nearly 14 years until the Spring 1990 issue. During that time Dan's wife Irene served as assistant editor as Dan and Irene turned their home into a print shop laying out the magazine. Dan's unparalleled

work as editor and at the same time a full time superintendent has earned him the title Editor Emeritus.

Dan remained the publisher of the magazine while Tim Hiers took on the role as editor for one year in 1984-85. In 1990 Joel Jackson became the editor for two years and turned over the magazine to Tom Benefield from 1992 until 1994. With the fall 1994 issue, Jackson resumed the editorship and continues in that role as part of his duties as FGCSA director of communications.

Other people who have made the magazine so successful over the years: Daniel Zelazek, cover photographer since 1981. Dick Long, printer for most

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of Dan's tenure. Max Brown, Tom Mascaro, David Bailey and Mike Bailey who served as associate editors, staff writers and photographers for the magazine over the years. Marie Roberts who has managed the advertising and Paul Crawford who has served as the business manager since 1992.

In the summer of 1989, Larry Kieffer came on board and served as managing editor for several years and continues to help produce the *Florida Green* as president of Janlark Communications.

The magazine under both flags has won its share of awards and recognition over the years, but the greatest reward for the association has

been the on-going success of the publication.

That success reflects the magazine's dedication to the simple basic values and mission outlined in that first president's message and dedication 25 years ago.

Today it remains a tribute to the pioneers who set the magazine in motion in 1973 and to those who have sustained it over the years.

To the advertisers, the readers and the contributors we say "Thank you, and may we serve you as well over the next 25 years.

"Happy Birthday, *Florida Green!*"



The 1998-99 FGCSA officers elected at the Annual Meeting in Orlando are (from left) Cary Lewis, CGCS, Secretary/Treasurer; Joe Ondo, CGCS, Past President; Darren Davis, GCS, Vice President; and Mike Perham, CGCS, President. Photo by Joel Jackson.

23rd Crowfoot Becomes First Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open

The 23rd anniversary of the Central Florida Chapter's summer event took a new

name this year. The Crowfoot Open was renamed the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open in memory of the long-time chairman of the event. Kamphaus and his wife Vilma organized the Crowfoot for 13 years and Kamphaus was a superintendent at Walt

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Disney World for 27 years before he passed away in June of 1997.

The committee also initiated an annual Larry Kamphaus Award to be presented to the Central Florida Chapter member who exemplified the characteristics of: loyalty and service to their employer, strong family values and service to church, community and profession. The first award went to Jim Ellison, CGCS, of the Arnold Palmer Management Company. Ellison was the long-time superintendent at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando and has remained connected to the Palmer organization for over 20 years. Ellison also served on

committee and Central Florida Chapter Board of Directors.

Ellison was presented with an inscribed crystal bowl denoting the occasion. Vilma Kamphaus was also presented with a larger version of the bowl which will have the winners' names inscribed each year. Mrs. Kamphaus acknowledged the memento in a poignant acceptance speech. She remains active, serving on the committee to help the Central Florida Chapter with this major social and fund-raising event.

The weekend of activities kicked off with the summer board meeting of the Florida Golf Course Superintendents Association Aug. 1 at the Bay Hill Club in Orlando. Guests

included Dr. John Cisar, turf coordinator for the University of Florida IFAS, and Mike Goldie, lobbyist for the FGCSA and FTGA.

Goldie gave an update on the past year's legislation which did not have any negative aspects for the turf industry. He previewed the upcoming elections, noting candidates that have an understanding of turf issues. He has asked for support of golf outings for legislators as a way of establishing relationships and discussing our issues.

Cisar talked about the results of the recent IFAS/ Industry retreat and the continuing process of refining his job description. Meetings with the adminis-

tration and a Turf Advisory Working Group will help clarify how the turf coordinator's role will function within the university's hierarchy.

The normal business meeting followed (see the summer board meeting minutes in the Sept./Oct. 1998 issue of the Green Sheet for details). After the summer board meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m., the FGCSA annual meeting was called to order for the purpose of electing new officers. The nominated slate of Mike Perham, CGCS, president; Darren Davis, GCS, vice president; Cary Lewis, CGCS, secretary/ treasurer was elected by a unanimous vote.

At 8:00 a.m. Sunday, 15

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Dale Mitchell (left) and Richard Colyer (right) present Joe Ondo, CGCS with a check for \$3,000 for turf research from the Golf Agronomics Supply and Handling (GASH) rebate program. The FGCSA is deeply appreciates the consistent support GASH has shown for our turf research programs. They too are "True Believers!" Photo by Joel Jackson.

superintendents attended a GCSAA Etonic Leadership Series seminar entitled, "Computers for Golf Course Maintenance."

The presentation by Gary

Bueltel, CGCS, CTM of the Lost Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas focused on ways superintendents can use computer software to maximize their time,

productivity, and demonstrate their value to their club.

Bueltel gave numerous examples of how investing the time to learn to use spreadsheets to provide various financial and operational scenarios to his management, increased his visibility and professionalism within his club. The theme of the presentation: Save Time. Save Money. Save Your Job! Bueltel has made computers a hobby and builds customized computer systems for superintendents. If you are interested in learning more about how computers can help you in your job in the high tech '90s, give Gary a call at (512) 899-1971. It's never too late to learn more!



Dale Kuehner, CGCS, 1996-97 FGCSA president (left) performs his last official act for the FGCSA board by presenting Joe Ondo, CGCS with his plaque and gavel as Joe becomes the newest past president. Photo by Joel Jackson.

Later that same day, everyone gathered at the Bay Hill Club for the annual banquet. Good food and fun were the order of the evening as the crowd enjoyed with

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The 1998 Larry Kamphaus/Crowfoot Open



Director of Communications Joel Jackson, CGCS thanks Dale Kuehner, CGCS for his four years of service as an association officer and presents him with a bound edition of Florida Green issues containing his President's messages. Dale will continue to be active as the FGCSA Voting Delegate. Photo by Joel Jackson.



Speaker Gary Bueltel, CGCS (left) with Geoff Coggan, CGCS FGCSA Education Committee Chairman at the Etonic Leadership Seminar, "Computers and Golf Course Maintenance." The theme of Gary's seminar, "Save time. Save money. Save your job!" Photo by Joel Jackson.

long time friends and business associates. Following dinner, a casino night was held to play for raffle tickets for the door prizes.

On Monday, coats and ties gave way to shorts and spikeless golf shoes as a full field teed off on the Bay Hill course. Host superintendent

Dwight Kummer took mercy on the amateurs and the field played from the middle tees rather than the Tour tees like last year.

The course was in great shape for the event. The Central Florida team of Chris Cartin, Jeff Cotton, Tom Alex, and Barry Troutman captured the Chapter Team event with Cartin also taking low gross honors.

In the Commercial Division Joe O'Donnell of Sunbelt Seeds won low gross and Butch Singo of Harrell's, Inc. took low net honors.

Tom Alex, 1998 Chairman of the Larry Kamphaus Crowfoot Open, announced last week that the event netted approximately \$4,000 that will be donated for turf research.

Managers Invite Superintendents to CMAA Meeting

In a move to provide better relations between club managers and golf course superintendents, Mike Fiddelke, president of the Florida Chapter of the Club Managers Association of America, suggested to the CMAA members attending their annual meeting in Naples this past August to invite their superintendents to come along.

The CMAA board had organized a turf-oriented program with such speakers as Chris Hartwiger and John Foy from the USGA, and Dr. John Cisar, turf coordinator for the University of Florida. Approximately two dozen superintendents were able to

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University of Florida's IFAS turf coordinator, Dr. John Cisar opened a few eyes to the extremely low risk of pesticide exposure on golf courses with his presentation at the joint club manager/superintendent workshop in Naples. Photo by Joel Jackson.

attend and over 100 people attended the turf workshop held at the Registry Hotel in Naples.

Hartwiger, who covers the northwest Florida and other southeastern states for the

USGA Green Section, discussed the top ten myths in turf maintenance. The list actually reached 17 items, but Hartwiger says the top ten title was a little more catchy! Hartwiger also discussed

bunker maintenance and the concept of using a report-card evaluation approach so the green committee and superintendent could set priorities, goals and expectations for maintaining the course bunkers.

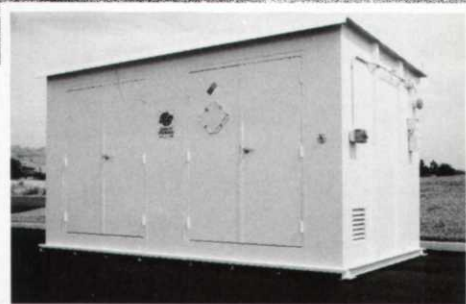
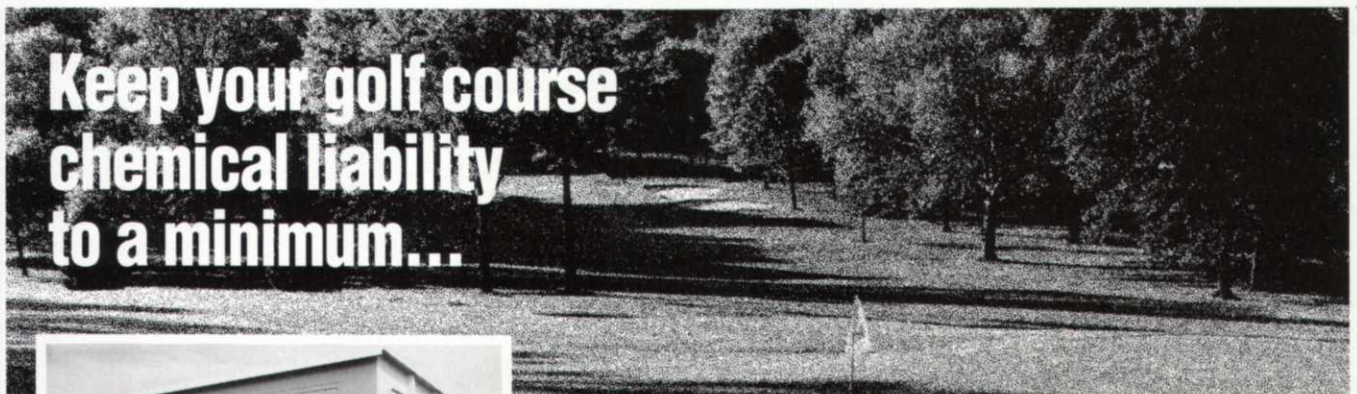
Foy used a similar report-card approach for a total maintenance plan for the conditioning of a golf course. This approach forces a club to identify and discuss specific complaints, weaknesses, features, factors and causes for greens conditions.

The report-card method is detailed in an article by Jim Moore in the USGA's March/April 1998 Green Section Record.

Dr. Cisar discussed the mission of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and

how IFAS serves the golf industry through its education and research programs. Cisar then presented the results of his work on the "Dislodgeability of Pesticides." The good news for those concerned about exposure to pesticides is that after rigorous attempts to pick up pesticides that have dried on turf, only .0018 micro-grams of material could be detected. That's 18 ten-thousandths of a micro-gram. That is well below any levels for potential health concern according to EPA human safety exposure figures.

The three-day event which included a banquet and a golf tournament provided an informal atmosphere where club managers and superinten-



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dents from around the state could network and discuss common areas of concern. Hopefully more joint events like this can be held in the future.

Third Time's a Charm for Coastal Plains Chapter

The Coastal Plains Chapter, which serves the Tallahassee area, held its Third Annual Coastal Plains Classic Golf Tournament to benefit turfgrass research July 13 at the Golden Eagle Country Club in Tallahassee. In a promotional flyer, the chapter provided their mission statement for the event:

"The Coastal Plains Chapter is a non-profit group of turfgrass-related commer-



Bill Humphrey, Lesco, Inc. of Tallahassee, tees off in the Third Annual Coastal Plains Golf Classic held on the beautiful rolling Golden Eagle Country Club golf course. Photo by Joel Jackson.

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Bill Allford was the host superintendent for the Third Annual Coastal Plains Golf Classic. Proceeds from the tournament benefit turf research. Photo by Joel Jackson.

the outstanding golf facilities in our area. One reason we are able to improve conditions at our golf courses is due to the advancements made through turfgrass research.

Because we are committed to making these advancements, we have chosen to aid them by holding the Coastal Plains Classic Golf Tournament. Proceeds from last year's tournament were donated to support turfgrass research at The Coastal Plains Station

cial members and golf course superintendents. Our group is responsible for maintaining

in Tifton, Ga. and the University of Florida Station in Milton, Fla."

Doug Abbuhl, president of the Coastal Plains chapter, reported that the event should clear about \$4,200 to be donated to turfgrass research.

This year's two-man team event was won by Kyle Beebe and Kevin Nelson in the Low Gross Division and Tom Davis and Dave Melsow in the Low Net Division.

Bill Allford, host superintendent had the gorgeous rolling golf course in immaculate condition for the event.

The tournament committee, consisting of Doug Abbuhl, Mike Bishop, Gerri Buchheit, Todd Carlton and Bill Humphrey, want to thank Novartis for being the keynote sponsor and the

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